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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. F8-5460

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1-31-02

In re application of:

DE GHELDERE et al.

Serial No: 09/325,599

Filed: June 3, 1999

Examiner: Ivars C. Cintins

Art Unit: 1724

For: PROCESSING SET AND METHODS
FOR PROCESSING AND TREATING
A BIOLOGICAL FLUID

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

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Date: December 28, 2001

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

GROUP 1700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action (restriction requirement) of November 28, 2001 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group II (Claims 24-38) with traverse, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement for the reasons set forth below. In the event that the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims of Group I (Claims 1-4 and 6-11) in a later application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the Group II claims is sufficiently related to the subject matter of the Group I claims to allow for examination of all of the claims

together. Both groups of claims are directed to disposable fluid processing sets which are used in the treatment of a biological fluid. Both groups of claims include two containers that are connected to each other and include an openable flow path.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that a single examination of all of the pending claims is warranted, would not create any serious burden on the Patent Office and, in fact, may even be more economical.

Respectfully submitted,



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